

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 9, 2011

Agenda Item: 2011 Furbearer Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Proposed Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 minutes

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Background

Furbearer season structure is defined by FWP Commission rule every two years. Furbearer quotas are set annually. Season structure for 2010 and 2011 was finalized in August 2010. Proposed changes to 2011 annual quotas are below. All other season elements and quotas are proposed unchanged from 2010.

- An increase bobcat quota in Trapping District 3 from 200 to 250
- A reduced bobcat quota in Trapping District 5 from 400 to 300
- A reduced bobcat quota in Trapping District 7 from 800 to 600

Bobcat quota adjustments are in response to regional review that includes analysis of harvest related data and bobcat prey assessment.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period for any adopted proposal will run through 5 PM Monday, July 18, with Final adoptions at the Aug. 11 commission meeting in Helena.

Alternative and Analysis

Proposals provide sound furbearer management to include trapping with consideration of concerns from other user groups. The intent is to reasonably *share* the landscape, associated resources and opportunities to the extent possible. Proposals for specific changes to bobcat quotas include current information assembled by FWP staff.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale

Recommend maintaining 2010 quotas except for the proposed changes above. This is consistent with existing information and represents reasonable and appropriate consideration of user conflict and the continued presence of contemporary research and other data in furbearer management and restoration opportunities that include trapping.

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt the proposed 2011 furbearer quotas as proposed by FWP.
